

Application No. 10/602,872

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0035] of the specification as indicated below.

[0035] The manner in which a cover is tightly fit over a housing, to couple the cover with the housing, according to the principles of the present invention, is schematically illustrated in FIGS 13A - 43A 13C. In FIGS 13A - 43A 13C an airbag cover 158 and housing 150, constructed according to the embodiment of FIGS 9 - 12, are coupled together. Specifically, the peripheral sidewalls 150b, 158b of the housing and cover, respectively, are fit together such that the peripheral sidewall 158b of the cover moves relative to the peripheral side wall 150b in the direction shown by arrow 170. The relatively rigidity of the housing member 150 and the elastic deformation capability of the cover enables the cover to stretch as it is inserted onto the housing. The cover is fit together with the housing member with the crests 164 at the leading edge 162 of the cover aligned with the retainers 151 of the housing member and the openings 160 in the cover aligned with the hooks 152 of the housing member (FIG 13A). As the cover rides over the ramps of the hooks, the portions of the cover having the crests ~~462~~ 164 remain tightly fit against the housing, so that the crests 164 engage the stop portions 153 of the retainers, to prevent over travel of the cover relative to the housing member. As the crests 164 at the leading edge of the cover engage the stop portions 153 of the retainers, the crests 164 are compressed (see FIG 13B), and each opening 160 in the cover fits over a respective hook 152 of the housing. At that point, the pressure that forced the cover onto the housing is relaxed, and the compression on the crests of the cover will cause the cover to react against the stop portions 153 of the retainers and enable the peripheral sidewall 158b of the cover to expand between the retainers and the hooks (i.e. the side wall 158b of the cover will move relative to the side wall 150b of the housing in the direction illustrated by arrow 172). This causes the front portions 160a of the openings in the cover to be pressed against the ~~front hook~~ portions 154 of the hooks 152, so that the peripheral sidewall 158b of the cover is effectively captured

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between the hooks 152 and the retainers 151 of the housing. Thus, as the cover is being tightly fit over the housing, (i) the cover will deform elastically as it rides over the ramps of the housing, (ii) the leading edge of the cover will engage the retainers and be compressed until the openings in the cover receive respective hooks of the housing and (iii) when the cover is released the cover can react against the ~~retainer~~ retainers and expand between the hooks and retainers to capture the cover between the hooks and the retainers.